

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 621

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS/CERTIFICATION: Provides relative to the certification of foreign associate teachers

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:7(6)(f), relative to the certification of certain teachers; to require the State
3 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and implement certain
4 policies relative to the certification of foreign associate teachers; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:7(6)(f) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §7. Duties, functions, and responsibilities of board

9 In addition to the authorities granted by R.S. 17:6 and any powers, duties, and
10 responsibilities vested by any other applicable laws, the board shall:

11 * * *

12 (6)

13 * * *

14 (f) The board shall develop and implement policies relative to the
15 certification of foreign associate teachers that provide for the following:

16 (i) The Foreign Language Elementary Special PK-8 Certificate, referred to
17 in this Subparagraph as the "FLES" certificate, shall be replaced with the World
18 Language Certificate PK-12, referred to in this Subparagraph as the "WL" certificate.

19 (ii) A teacher's FLES or WL certificate may be renewed upon the teacher's
20 completion of one hundred fifty continuing learning units of district-approved and

verified professional development over the six-year time period during which the certificate is held or during the five-year time period immediately preceding the request for renewal. Continuing learning units earned abroad shall be approved and verified by the division of curriculum standards of the state Department of Education.

(iii) The Test of English as a Foreign Language shall be used in lieu of the PRAXIS Pre-Professional Skills Tests in Reading and Writing for teachers who hold the FLES or WL certificate and plan to pursue a Level 1 Louisiana teaching certificate.

(iv) Languages covered under the WL certificate shall be expanded as necessary to allow for growth of the Foreign Associate Teacher Program.

(v) Support shall be provided for the addition of a foreign language indicator to the list of critical certification shortage areas in the revised Teacher Preparation Accountability System to encourage universities to increase the number of foreign language teachers who complete teacher preparation programs.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hoffmann

HB No. 621

Abstract: Requires BESE to implement certain policies relative to the certification of foreign associate teachers.

Present law provides generally for the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), which include prescribing the qualifications and providing for the certification of teachers.

Proposed law additionally requires BESE, relative to foreign associate teachers, to implement specific policies that provide for the type of certificate held by such teachers, certificate renewal, continuing learning units, tests required for certification, growth of the Foreign Associate Teacher Program, and adding a foreign language indicator to the list of critical certification shortage areas.

(Adds R.S. 17:7(6)(f))